727 150 million Estonian crowns had been spent. But Estonia had won her independence and could now begin to organize her internal government.

648 Independence. On January 26, 1921, the Allies recognized Estonia as an independent country and the United States followed suit of July 28, 1922. Estonia was accepted in the League of Nations on November 22, 1921.

646 In April, 1919, after the Red Army had been driven from Estonian territory, elections for the Constituent Assembly were held; the sessions of the elected Assembly lasted from April 23, 1919, to December 20, 1920, the President of the Assembly being A. Rei. Most important among the legislative activities of the Assembly were: 1) the Declaration of Estonian Independence; 2) the agrarian law[1] and 3) the Constitution of Estonia, June 15, 1920.[2]

[1] [See cat. 116, pp. 46-44-47 -- Analyst]
[2] [See cat. 116, pp. 48-55 -- Analyst]

433 during the crisis reorganization occurred: more emphasis was then put on cereal production and less on dairy farming. Beginning with 1933 the output began to rise and in 1938 it had almost reached again the 1927 level.

642 Estonia as a young republic underwent several constitutional changes. The first Constitution, passed in 1920,[1] was extremely liberal. The Estonian people exercised their power through a [646] referendum and a one-chamber parliament (Riigikogu) which comprised one hundred members. Candidates for Riigikogu were nominated by various political parties and elected by the 643 people for a three-year term. The executive branch was comparatively weak, and was composed usually of a coalition of representatives of several parties. There was no separately elected President, and the head of the State was the Prime Minister, called Riigivanem 48 ('State Elder'),

1/ [June 15, 1920 -- Analyst]

642 The leader of the sovietization of Estonia during the first Soviet Occupation was Andrey Zhdanov, a member of the Political Bureau and of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. A new Communist puppet government was appointed, with Johannes Vares, a physician and left-wing poet, as Premier. President K. Päts remained formally in office for a while, although he was actually a prisoner of [701] the occupation authorities. General Laidoner was relieved of his duties as Commander-in-Chief.[1] The Estonian Defense Union was dissolved and all its arms surrendered. In addition, almost all private organizations were 666 liquidated. The Communists speeded up the [646] elections of a new House of Representatives, which were held on July 14-15, 1940. Although non-Communist candidates were also allowed at first, these were later all withdrawn and

1 [in 1940, See Cat. 116, pp. 52, 57-61 -61- -- Analyst.]

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

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been united in the struggle for a common cause, as in the War of Liberation and in the last war when all classes responded to the mobilization and fought against Communist reoccupation of Estonia.

Although political parties were banned during the constitutional crisis (see Subparagraph 1b, HISTORICAL SETTING, pp. 24-27), they probably would have been reorganized later had there been time left. The old political parties [646] still exist among Estonian refugees abroad. A new trend which began during the last years of independence, but which did not have time to develop fully, was the representation of the people in the parliament by occupation. This type of representation was not decided upon by the Estonian people but was a decision made in the highest government circles. It would have

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 2b,

Political Background

STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

177 Government in the Estonian SSR is the same
64
642 as in all the republics of the Soviet Union.

646 The legislative branch of parliament is the Supreme Soviet (Ülemnõukogu), consisting of deputies, elected by the people, one for every 10,000 citizens, for a term of four years. The candidates are nominated by the Communist Party. The Supreme Soviet elects its Presidium and Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet convene twice a year.

645 The executive and administrative branch is the Council of Ministers, which is responsible to the Supreme Soviet. Formerly the Ministers were called the People's Commissars. There

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642 n) Road building; direction of local transport and communications;

o) Labor legislation;

p) Direction of public health;

q) Direction of social maintenance;

r) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;

s) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations[1] and institutions of the Estonian SSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;

t) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;

u) Organization of the judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

v) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Estonian SSR;

w) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

x) Organization of the military formations of the Estonian SSR;

y) Establishment of the representation of the Estonian SSR in international relations.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Estonian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Estonian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 10,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Estonian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 14[2] of the Constitution of the Estonian SSR, in so far as they do not by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Estonian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, and the Ministries of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR by a simple majority vote.

643 Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are published in the Estonian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

1 [Errata: add "and institutions." Cf. Errata sheet, cat. 116, p. iii--Analyst]

2 [Cf. cat. 116, pp. 2-4--Analyst]

5:Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RG4 Estonia RG4

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

643 646 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and five members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for all its activities.

Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

b) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Estonian SSR in operation;

c) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

[645] d) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies if they do not conform to law;

e) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Estonian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

f) Confers titles of honour of the Estonian SSR;

g) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

h) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Estonian SSR to foreign states;

i) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

646 Estonian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 646 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR not later than one month after the elections.

[646] 645 Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR appoints the Government of the Estonian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Estonian SSR

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Estonian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Estonian SSR and of other economic, administrative and cultural institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorized representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Estonian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Estonian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Estonian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfillment of the state and local budgets of the Estonian SSR;

[Estonian Constitution as of November 1947]

633 under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

a Department of Local Industry and
a Department of Land.

Art. 70. The Departments of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu and Paldiski City Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Estonian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

652 Art. 73. The state budget of the Estonian SSR is drawn up by the Council [645] of Ministers of the Estonian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval.

646 Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR the state budget of the Estonian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Estonian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Estonian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and published for general information.

631 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, settlement and village [652] Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Estonian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR, the District Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

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693 Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

692 Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Estonian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Estonian SSR.

● 446 Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and volosts on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Estonian SSR are conducted in the Estonian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being [523] guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Estonian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Estonian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 87. The Procurator of the Estonian SSR is appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Estonian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

641 Art. 90. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to work, that is,
461 the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

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Chapter X. Arms, Flag, Capital

186 Art. 116. The arms of the Estonian SSR are a sickle and hammer against the rays of the rising sun surrounded by a wreath formed on the left side by pine branches and on the right by ears of rye. Both sides of the wreath are interwoven by a red band bearing the inscription "Workers of All Countries, United!" in the Estonian and Russian languages and below the initials "Eesti NSV". At the top of the arms is a five-pointed star.

Art. 117. The State flag of the Estonian SSR is of red cloth with a gold sickle and hammer and the gold letters "ENSV" in the upper corner near the staff. The ratio of width to length is 1:2.

Art. 118. The capital of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic is the City of Tallin.

Chapter XI. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 119. The Constitution of the Estonian SSR may be amended only by
● 646 decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

000 Note: The Russian text from which this translation was made was published by Egis (Estonian State Publishing House) Politicheskaya Literatura, Tallin, 1947.

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704
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Their Time of Meeting is in *January*, when they decide all Differences betwixt Parties, in a very ſhort Method, there being no more allowed than a Declaration and Anſwer, upon which they give immediate Judgment. At the ſame time they alſo redreſs the Grievances of the People, if they have any to offer; for which Purpoſe they chooſe every three Year a certain Gentleman, who is for that ſpace of time ſtiled the Captain of the Province, whoſe Buſineſs is to repreſent their Grievances to this Council, and to implore their Aid. The greateſt Troubles in their Law Suits ariſe from the Confuſion ariſen betwixt the Eſtates in *Harriland*, *Wirland* and *Wieke*, about their Limits, during the Wars with the *Muſcovites* and *Poles*; to decide theſe Differences, certain particular Judges are appointed, who nevertheleſs are never continued above three Years in the ſame Station; but if either of the Parties find themſelves aggrieved by their Judgment, an Appeal lies to the Council of the Country, who appoint Commiſſioners living upon the Spot, with Authority to reverſe or confirm the former Judgment. And becauſe peculiar Care ought to be taken of the High-ways, Bridges and Cauſe-ways in a Fenny Country, certain Surveyers or Judges are alſo appointed for that purpoſe.

Le E 633 642

The Government of the Cities approaches much nearer to a Democratical State, being better fitted for Traffick than any other; for tho' the Adminiſtration of Juſtice is lodged in the Magiſtrates, yet in moſt Matters of Moment they are obliged to conſult with the chief Men of every *Guild* or Profeſſion, and in ſome extraordinary Matters, they cannot tranſact any Thing without the Conſent of the whole Body of the Free-Men of their reſpective Cities.

Le E 873

We will not inſiſt much upon their other Cuſtoms and Manners, being much the ſame with the reſt of the *Germans*, it being the conſtant Cuſtom of the *Livonian* Nobility, as well as the chief Inhabitants of the Cities, to ſend their Sons Abroad into Foreign Countries, and eſpecially to the Univerſities of *Germany* and *Holland*, to inſtruct them in the Policy as well as Cuſtoms of thoſe Countries.

Le E 565

We muſt now come to the ſecond Rank, *viz.* the Peaſantry; theſe Inhabit all the Champaign Country of

Li-